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Means of Preventing, at Least of Reducing, Wars.

BY GEORGE W. HOSS, LL.D.

Among the multiplex means proposed for preventing war, we submit the following:

1. Less war matter in all our histories, especially in histories of the United States. In many histories it seems that the dominant idea in the mind of the writer is war.

2. Little or no reference made to warriors as models of success when you are addressing students, whether in the public school or college. When I was in college, Alexander, Cæsar and Napoleon were the staple in addresses designed to stimulate the aspirations of young men. Statesmen, orators, scholars and reformers seemed to be at a discount.

3. The discarding of firearms (save on national Decoration days) and military displays, save the flag — cherished emblem of liberty, not of blood — on all public occasions. Let it be proved to the rising generation that more true national greatness can be shown by the arts of peace than by the most gorgeous paraphernalia and exploits of war.

4. While teaching patriotism in our public schools, teach with the same zeal and cogency the principles and blessings of peace.

5. Cease to give men civic honors and office, simply because of military achievement.

6. Let the sentiment be developed and fostered in school, home, church and state, that the bloodless victories of peace are infinitely more honorable and ennobling than the blood-stained trophies of war.

7. Enact laws making it a penal offence for any citizen, during international controversies, to publicly incite or encourage war until all possible means of peaceable adjustment have been exhausted.

I do not elaborate any of these now, but leave their own inherent merit to commend them without argument.

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The Strait of Magellan, the Nicaragua Canal and Mission Work.

Josiah W. Leeds of Philadelphia sends the following interesting and instructive letter to the *Public Ledger* of that city, under date of May 10:

"Reference was made in the issue of the *Ledger* of the 26th ult. by a correspondent, H. A. P., to the visit of Charles Darwin to Cape Horn in 1833 (misprinted 1883); to the then degraded condition of the Fijians; the subsequent great mortality amongst them, partly due to diseases introduced by the whites; and it was suggested that despite the self-denying efforts of the missionaries in that field it cannot be adduced as an example of conspicuous success.

"It may be of interest to note that in the same year as that of Darwin's visit Titus Coan, a young missionary from New England — the same who in subsequent years labored so long and faithfully in Hawaii teaching peace, temperance and the tenets of the Christian religion to the islanders — embarked with a single companion on a sailing vessel bound to the Strait of Magellan, with the object of determining upon the suitability of the locality

therearound as a field for missionary labor. The degraded condition of the natives certainly indicated the need of a moral uplift. Commenting upon the incident of an Englishman, who, landing from a vessel which had just entered the strait, was overhauled by some natives, who secured the brace of pistols with which he was armed before he had opportunity to (imprudently) use them, Coan observes in his narrative: 'And just here it may be proper to remark that from personal experience, observation and reflection, I have been led to the firm conviction that carrying weapons, whether at home or abroad, whether traveling in civilized or savage countries, is seldom a protection of life, but the contrary. Among savages the armed man is watched, inspected, feared, and this jealous fear often provokes attack. As with nations, so with individuals, arming on one side leads to arming on the other side. Suspicion excites suspicion, fear awakens fear, and intimidation provokes intimidation, until blow responds to blow, and there is war in the wigwam, in the camp and in the field.' It is to be hoped that the missionaries from all quarters of the globe, now about concluding their Ecumenical Conference in New York, will have been prepared to subscribe to this enunciation. One of their number at least, J. Hudson Taylor, of the China Inland Mission, has practically tested it during many years, it being the rule at all the many stations, some of them more than a thousand miles in the interior, to neither keep any firearms nor to ask for armed protection. They have been largely, if not altogether, exempt from attack so frequently reported from the country named.

"A second pertinent observation of Titus Coan's, which he makes in connection with a fight between two tribes, the combatants, after becoming exhausted, arriving at an amicable settlement by compromise, is one which seems to call for very frequent iteration. 'This reminded us,' he says, 'of what men call civilized and Christianized warfare. Had these savages reasoned better they would have settled their respective claims by arbitration or by mutual concessions and agreement without a fight. But in savage and civilized warfare after blood has been shed, property destroyed, misery inflicted and hatred engendered, the parties come back upon the right ground of settlement, that of negotiation and reason.'

"However, a triumph after this latter order was secured by Chile and the Argentine Confederation, when they settled (1881) without a war their respective boundary claims in Patagonia. What was done about the public use of the Strait of Magellan it would be well just at this time to bear in mind, when so much is being said in regard to the advisability of abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and providing for the fortifying of the prospective Nicaraguan Canal. For the text of the stipulation of amity (Article 5) concerning the strait, I am indebted to James D. Porter, Assistant Secretary of State during the first term of President Cleveland. Translated from the Spanish of the official collection of treaties of the Argentine government, it reads:

" 'The Strait of Magellan to remain perpetually neutral, and its free navigation assured to the flags of all nations. With the intent of securing this immunity, it is forbidden to construct on the coasts thereof any fortifications or military defenses which would defeat such purpose.'

"Can we do better than to keep in step in this matter with the two Spanish speaking republics, and to say to Sir Julian Pauncefote, who has shown himself so greatly an ambassador of peace, that the great canal (whether it be through Nicaraguan or Colombian territory) surely ought not to be, and that it will not, in this day of treaties of arbitration, be guarded by menacing fortifications?"

A Protest Against Compulsory Military Service.

The Representative Meeting of the Society of Friends in Great Britain has directed to the British government and people the following timely and powerful protest against the proposed compulsory military service:

"In view of the proposals which were brought before Parliament, some months before the commencement of the present unhappy conflict in South Africa, by the Secretary of State for War, and of the advocacy of some form of compulsory military service which has appeared in the press of this country, especially in the *Nineteenth Century* magazine, since the war began, we feel it our duty to issue a protest against any measure for enforced service in the army or militia. We make this protest, not on our own behalf, as it appears probable that such a measure would recognize the conscientious objections of the Society of Friends to military service, but on behalf of those amongst our fellow-countrymen who share our objections without sharing our exemption, and in the general interest of the community.

"The proposals in question are a natural result of the great increase in the armed forces of the nation which has taken place during the past few years, and which is, we are convinced, due to a growing disposition to look to material instead of moral forces for the protection of our country and its dependencies.

"While many military authorities had long favored a large addition to the army, little encouragement seems to have been afforded by public opinion until the time of the Jubilee of 1897, with its naval and military displays. In the autumn of that year Mr. Brodrick, then Under Secretary for War, foreshadowed a large increase of the British army for the purpose of protecting our enormously increased territory. An addition of twenty thousand men was provided for in the army estimates for 1898-99. Sir Robert Finlay, the Solicitor General, recommended about the same time some form of ballot for compulsory service in the army in order to obtain more soldiers, a method of which Lord Wolseley has frequently expressed approval.

"At present the whole of the military forces of England are raised by voluntary enlistment. Acts have long existed providing for compulsory enlistment in the militia by ballot, but the last act on the subject contained sections suspending the operation of the ballot for a year, unless put in force by Order in Council, and these suspension clauses have been regularly continued year by year by the Expiring Laws Continuation Acts.

"In the last session of parliament, however, a bill called the Militia Ballot Bill was introduced in the House of Lords by the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Secretary of State for War, for the purpose of enabling the ballot for the militia to be readily put in operation if desired.

By Lord Lansdowne's bill, taken in conjunction with the existing law, lists of all men between the ages of eighteen and thirty would be kept by the overseers, and the quota of militia levied by the government on each county would be chosen by ballot. Persons refusing to serve may be arrested and compelled to serve for five years from the time of arrest, and be treated as deserters if habitually absenting themselves. Certain classes of persons are exempt: members of parliament, officers and men already serving in the army, policemen, seamen, ministers following no other profession but that of minister or schoolmaster, and doctors. The term of service is five years. The conscientious objection of members of the Society of Friends to military service is provided for by the existing law, which the bill leaves unchanged.

"In several respects the new measure will, if passed, operate more stringently than the existing law. It does away with the liberty to provide substitutes, hitherto allowed to persons chosen by ballot. It omits from the classes of persons exempted from compulsory service "any poor man who has more than one child born in wedlock"; it abolishes the power of a parish to provide volunteers in lieu of a ballot; and it increases the punishment on those who neglect or refuse to serve, from a penalty of £10 to the punishment inflicted on deserters,—that is, imprisonment for a first offence, and penal servitude for a subsequent one. The bill is not merely one revising the machinery of the existing acts; it is one designed to make compulsion a reality, from which there will be no escape when once the act has been put in operation by an Order in Council, or by the lapsing of the clauses suspending it from year to year.

"In introducing this bill, Lord Lansdowne pointed out two contingencies in which a ballot for the militia might be desirable: first, if there were such a failure of voluntary enlistment for the line and militia as would involve an entire reconsideration of our present army system; and, secondly, during a severe and protracted crisis in which there had been a serious strain on our military forces, and we had exhausted all other means of keeping them up to the necessary strength.

"The war in South Africa has manifestly brought us in view of the latter of these contingencies, and it appears almost certain that the bill of last year, or an even more stringent measure, will shortly be reintroduced. If passed, it would mean the introduction into our military system of compulsory enlistment. We pass by the grave interference with the liberty of the subject involved in such a measure, the serious hardships that would result in many individual cases from its operation, and the economic evils that would attend any form of compulsory military service. We are chiefly concerned to point out that any measure of compulsory enlistment will expose those of our fellow-countrymen who believe that war is unlawful to the terrible alternative of being false to their conscientious objections or of being punished as deserters; that is, to be liable to imprisonment for a first offence and penal servitude for a subsequent offence. It will thus become an instrument of religious persecution, striking at that freedom of conscience upon which the true greatness of the British character so largely depends.

"The measure will be advocated on the plea of military